Food processing industrial policy

1398. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed the State Governments to frame Food Processing Industrial Policy for their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States that have formulated their own Food Processing Industrial Policy alongwith the financial assistance provided by Government to each State;

(d) whether Government has taken any initiatives to encourage the States, which have not taken steps, to frame their own Food Processing Industrial Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the names of the States which have not taken any steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) with the intention to make concerted efforts for development and growth of food processing sector, is encouraging States to frame Food Processing Industrial Policy for their respective States. This will facilitate the States to create enabling environment for creating rural infrastructure, raise level of processing and generate farm level employment keeping in view their distinct agro climatic scenario and availability of rural infrastructure.

(c) to (e) The information has been sought from all the State Governments and will be placed on the table of the House.

Export of agricultural and processed food products

1399. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Report 'Agro-industrial Parks in India' of the Food and Agricultural Organization of UN, India is lagging behind in the export of agricultural and processed food products, in spite of abundant and varied production base;

(b) whether the Report has also pointed out that India confines its exports to conventional markets in West Asia, Western Europe and North America;

(c) if so, the details in respect of parts (a) and (b) above; and

(d) what action plan the Ministry has prepared or proposes to formulate to fully utilize the production and export of India's fresh and processed food?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) According to the Agricultural and Food Engineering Working Document authored by Shri K.Lakshminarayana Rao, as available on website http://www.fao.org/Ag/ags/publications/docs/AGST_WorkingDocuments/J7714_e.pdf India is lagging behind in the export of agricultural and processed food products, despite its abundant and varied production base and it mentions that export is primarily limited to conventional markets in West Asia, Western Europe and North America covering mainly to ethnic population. However, it